

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed September 7, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8, and objected to claim 5 but indicated claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form, including the limitations of any base claims. Claim 5 has been so rewritten, to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 and claim 3. It is asserted that claim 5 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 1-3 have been canceled. With entry of this Amendment After Final, the dependencies of method claims 4 and 8 will be changed from claim 3 to claim 5, and thus it is submitted that claims 4 and 8 are also in condition for allowance.

This Amendment After Final includes new claim 9, which is a device claim that incorporates limitations that are analogous to the limitations of method claim 5. Thus, it is asserted that claim 9 should be allowable for the same reasons recited by the Examiner for allowability of claim 5. This Amendment After Final also changes the dependency of device claim 6 so it depends from claim 9. Claim 7 is not changed, so that its dependency remains from claim 6. Thus, it is asserted that claim 9 is allowable and claims 6 and 7, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 9, also are allowable.

These changes were mentioned during an impromptu telephone interview with Examiner Goma. Applicants express appreciation to Examiner Goma for the subsequent return telephone call by Examiner Goma, during which potential antecedent basis considerations in claim 5 "the invalidation information" were discussed and clarified. The claims, as amended, have been carefully checked for proper antecedent basis of all claim elements.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants assert that all claims remaining in this Application after entry of this Amendment After Final (claims 4-9) are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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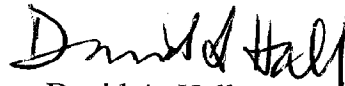
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Appl. No. 10/618,271
Amdt. dated October 30, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2627

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,



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